

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

 wirelessly linking a plurality of customers within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility; and
 enabling customers to communicate with one another via text messages over exchange information through said network.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein wirelessly linking includes providing wireless access to a server by a plurality of customers within a retail facility.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 including providing a processor-based device to retail customers that wirelessly communicates with said server.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 including enabling users to activate said device by swiping a credit card through a slot in said device.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1 including receiving audible communications from said customers.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

7 (Original). The method of claim 1 including pushing electronic files to customers.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1 including providing information about the current location of a processor-based device associated with a customer.

9 (Original). The method of claim 8 including providing information about the customer's location to the server.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 including pushing information to the customer depending on the customer's current location.

11 (Currently Amended). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

wirelessly link a plurality of customers within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility; and

enable customers to communicate with one another over exchange information through said network through text messages.

12 (Original). An article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to be accessed wirelessly by a plurality of customers within a retail facility.

13 (Original). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to recognize a processor-based device used by a customer in response to a credit card swipe through a slot in said device.

14 (Original). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive audible communications from said customers.

15 (Original). The article of claim 14 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to broadcast audio files to said customers.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

17 (Original). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to push electronic files to customers.

18 (Original). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide information about the current location of a processor-based device associated with a customer.

19 (Original). The article of 18 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to determine the customer's location.

20 (Original). The article of claim 19 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to push information to a customer depending on the customer's current location.

21 (Currently Amended). A system comprising:

A
a processor; and
a storage coupled to said processor to wirelessly link a plurality of customers within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility and enable customers to communicate with one another via text messages ~~exchange information~~ through said network.

22 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said system is a server.

23 (Original). The system of claim 22 wherein said server is coupled to a wireless interface.

24 (Original). The system of claim 21 wherein said system maintains a network of wireless, processor-based devices used by customers.

25 (Original). The system of claim 24 wherein said system recognizes said processor-based device in response to the detection of a credit card swipe through a slot in one of said devices.

26 (New). A method comprising:

establishing a local area network in a retail facility; and

providing retail customers with a terminal to communicate with said network, said terminal being activated by swiping a credit card through a slot in said terminal.

27 (New). The method of claim 26 including enabling customers in said retail facility having said terminals to exchange messages with one another in the form of text messages.

28 (New). The method of claim 26 including providing a server to control said network and enabling information to be pushed to customer terminals depending on the current location within the retail facility of the customer.

29 (New). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

activate a terminal in said local area network in response to swiping a credit card through a slot in said terminal; and

establish communication with a local area network in a retail facility.

30 (New). The article of claim 29 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable customers in a retail facility to exchange text messages through said network.

31 (New). The article of claim 29 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable information to be pushed to customer terminals depending on the current location within the retail facility of the customer.

32 (New). A processor-based system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing instructions to activate said terminal in response to swiping a credit card through a slot in said terminal and to communicate through a local area network in a retail facility.

33 (New). The system of claim 32, said storage storing instructions to enable said terminal to exchange text messages through said network.

34 (New). The system of claim 32, said storage storing instructions to enable said terminal to receive information pertinent to the current location of the terminal within the retail facility.

35 (New). A method comprising:

establishing a local area network in a retail facility; and
pushing information to a customer terminal coupled to said network depending on the current location of the terminal within said retail facility.

36 (New). The method of claim 35 including enabling customers in said retail facility having said terminals to exchange messages with one another in the form of text messages.

37 (New). The method of claim 35 including enabling a terminal to access the network in response to swiping a credit card through a slot in said terminal.

38 (New). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

establish a local area network in a retail facility; and
push information to a customer terminal coupled to said network depending on the current location of the terminal within said retail facility.

39 (New). The article of claim 38 further storing instructions to enable customers in said retail facility to exchange messages with one another in the form of text messages.

40 (New). The article of claim 38 further storing instruction that, if executed, enable said system to access the network in response to swiping a credit card through a slot.

41 (New). A system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage coupled to said processor storing instructions to establish a local area network in said retail facility between a plurality of customer terminals in said retail facility and push information to said customer terminals depending on the current location of the terminals within the retail facility.

42 (New). The system of claim 41 wherein said system to enable customers in said retail facility to exchange messages with one another in the form of text messages.

43 (New). The system of claim 41 including a global positioning device coupled to said processor.